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Gates Cautions Defense Critics

By John G. Norris
Staff Reporter

Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates Jr. warned yesterday that "unjustifiable criticism" of American military might—which he called the "greatest on earth"—can undermine Free World confidence and encourage Communist aggression.

Defending the defense policies of the Eisenhower Administration in a major speech, Gates said they stem in essence from the "long pull" military concept developed by two Defense Secretaries under former President Truman.

Gates delivered the keynote address at the 61st national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at Detroit. The text of his speech was released at the Pentagon.

Policy Little Changed

He told the veterans that while weapons and tactics have changed greatly since World War II, the broad outlines of American military policy have been little altered. This, Gates, said, is because the nature of the threat—the Communist aim to conquer the world by a combination of military, political, economic and psychological factors—does not change.

"The struggle with communism is certain to be long and costly," the Secretary said. "With such a prospect, the only sensible national strategy for this nation is one that gathers our resources

those of our allies for a prolonged test of endurance".

The first Secretary of Defense, the late James Forrestal, and particularly, Gen. George C. Marshall, Defense Secretary during the Korean War, set the course of the "long pull" defense policy. But it was left to President Eisenhower to put the concept fully into effect, Gates declared.

In rapping "unjustifiable" criticism of the Eisenhower Administration defense policies and invoking the memory of two of his predecessors under the prior Democratic Administration, Gates seemed to be edging into the political campaign. Both Sens. John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, the Democratic candidates for President and Vice President, have sharply criticized Eisenhower defense policy.

'Order of Battle'

In describing some of the Nation's latest weapons, Gates indicated that the first Polaris submarine may be already operational. He spoke of it as being in the United States "order of battle." The Secretary also ad libbed a statement that the new atomic antisubmarine depth-charge, Lulu, was already operational in the fleet.

Two other speakers at the VFW convention referred to the U-2 flight and trial. The Central Intelligence Agency

chief, Allen W. Dulles, said Russia is building a "spy phobia" by attacks on American planes and trial of airmen to "shield" military preparations for a "surprise attack on the Free World."

The designer of the U-2, Lockheed vice president Clarence L. (Kelly) Johnson, said Russia didn't need aerial reconnaissance to get information about American defenses. He suggested that the United States "shut up" about its defenses and "make things a little harder for our opponents."

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